

NH-INBRE-FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT (FOA) RESEARCH AND PILOT PROJECTS, OCTOBER 2024

1. Introduction.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) IDeA (Institutional Development Award) Program aims to enhance the competitiveness of academic institutions in 23 states including New Hampshire. The INBRE program (IDeA Network for Biomedical Research Excellence) supports biomedical research networks among colleges within an IDeA state to enhance their research infrastructure and culture. A major IDeA mission is to provide research opportunities to undergraduate students to encourage their pursuit of biomedical careers, with the hope that biotechnology, pharmaceutical, and related companies will establish new facilities within IDeA states based on the growth of the workforce. NH INBRE grants support biomedical research projects through the development of productive research faculty who ultimately become competitive for extramural research funding. Research and Pilot Project grants provide substantial support for faculty research effort, supplies, training, and additional resources. Faculty awarded project funding will also receive institutional and scientific mentorship to assist in meeting milestones for submission of research publications and extramural grant applications.

2. Eligibility.

New Proposals. Faculty members at a NH-INBRE partner institution whose research interests have biomedical relevance are eligible to apply for new Research or Pilot Project grants. This includes most faculty in the life sciences, including clinical researchers in nursing, as well as some whose proposed studies are in biomedically-relevant areas of environmental science, computer science, chemistry, neuroscience, psychology, and physics.

Renewals. Faculty who are Principal Investigators (PIs) on Research or Pilot Project grants that are currently funded by NH-INBRE who have made substantial progress on their prior Specific Aims are eligible to submit a renewal application to extend their work for one additional year.

Note, this grant funding opportunity falls within the next NH-INBRE 5-year NIH award and is contingent on the successful renewal of the NH INBRE parent grant.

Biomedical relevance: Projects should be related to the overall NIH mission to support biomedical research in a rigorous and reproducible manner.

3. Research vs. Pilot Project Grants

Research Projects (RPs) require PIs to commit 50% dedicated effort and propose substantial research activity for up to 2 years. RP budgets are capped at \$125,000 annually.

Pilot Projects (PPs) are for 1 year and require PIs to commit 25% dedicated effort. PP budgets are capped at \$50,000 but do not have to pay salaries for 2 undergraduates working on the PP.

Collaborative Research/Pilot Projects (CRP, CPP) must have a single PI from an NH-INBRE PUI partner and at least one Co-Investigator from a different PUI or lead institution who makes both significant intellectual and experimental contribution to the proposed research aims. The Co-investigator can receive salary support, but it must be proportional to their scientific contribution to the project aims. The combined effort of the PI and their co-investigator must not exceed 50% for RPs and 25% for PPs. Collaborators who provide reagents, data, or statistical and analytical support are ineligible for salary support but may receive funding for supplies.

4. Letters of Intent.

PIs are required to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) via their institution's sponsored projects or business office to Jennifer.J.Therriault@dartmouth.edu by **November 1, 2024**. PIs will be notified of the LOI status by November 15, 2024. PIs with accepted LOIs will be invited to submit full applications by January 15, 2025.

The LOI should:

Include items a - e within 2 total pages:

- a) PI and collaborators' names, professional titles, and institutional affiliations
- b) Type of grant: (RP, PP, CRP, CPP)
- c) Project Title
- d) Specific Aims
- e) A paragraph addressing the biomedical relevance of the project.

Include items f - g (no page limit):

- f) List of PI's publications (with student names bolded), submitted manuscripts (with status), current and past funding, and submitted grant applications (funded, not funded, scored) from the last 5 years.
- g) For PPs, a signed statement from an institutional official confirming adherence to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), including a commitment and plan from the school to approve release time from teaching and service obligations consistent with the PI's percent effort on the project.

LOIs will be evaluated by the NH-INBRE Administrative Core (Bill Green, Steve Fiering, Kelley Thomas, Yina Huang) to determine whether there is sufficient biomedical relevance and is likely to be competitive for funding. **PIs of approved LOIs will be notified by November 15, 2024** and invited to submit a full grant proposal. Part II of this FOA will be issued at that time and will include details on the format, required components, budgets, as well as review criteria.

Human subjects, vertebrate animals, data management plan. If you are invited to submit a full proposal involving either human subjects or vertebrate animals, approval by the appropriate institutional review committee (e.g., IRB, IACUC) will be required prior to NIH approval. Please start the institutional review process as soon as possible.

Contact Yina Huang (yina@dartmouth.edu) with questions about RP/PP applications and Kelley Thomas (kelley.thomas@unh.edu) about the data management plan.

RP and PP Funded PI Expectations based on Years of Funding	Frequency
Meet with assigned NH-INBRE mentor	ASAP after award notification
Complete or revise Research Development Plan (RDP)	Each July
Meet and Discuss RDP with full Mentoring Team (Institutional, scientific and INBRE mentors)	2x per year
Recruit undergraduate students to conduct research on Funded Project	As needed
Make Progress on Project Specific Aims	Continuously
Submit and Publish Manuscripts in Peer Reviewed Journal	Years 2, 4
Attend NH-INBRE R15 Grant Writing Workshop	Years 2, 3, 4
Submit and resubmit R15 application	Years 2, 3, 4
PI and Students Attend and Students Present at NH-INBRE Annual Mtg	Annually
Present at National or International Mtg	Years 2, 4
Submit Mentoring Evaluation	Annually

Key NH-INBRE Project and Pilot Project Grant Dates	
Early October 2024	Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) with details about LOI submission sent to Steering Committee for distribution.
November 1, 2024	Deadline for Letters of Intent (LOIs) submitted by PI's sponsored projects/business office
November 15, 2024	LOI status notification. PIs with accepted LOIs will be invited to submit full applications. Part II of the FOA will be issued.
January 15, 2025	Deadline for full grant submission for NH-INBRE funding
February 2025	Following peer review, proposals recommended for funding will be sent for NH-INBRE External Advisory Committee (EAC) approval.
March 2025	EAC approved Project PIs will be notified and should plan for summer work. Approved proposals will be forwarded to NIH approval.
May - July 1, 2025	Faculty should plan for a May 1, 2025, but no later than July 1, 2025 start date to allow full summer research activity; however, Project funding requires receipt of both NIH Project approval and NH-INBRE Notice of Award (NOA). Should this be administratively delayed, we will work with PUIs so that a full summer of research can be conducted.

